



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 307

By Representatives Pitts, Curtis Johnson, Phillip Johnson,, Shepard

and

Senators Kyle, Barnes

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mason Rudolph of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mason Rudolph, a legendary golf champion and a charter member of the Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mason Rudolph was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional athlete who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, Edgar Mason Rudolph was the son of Susan Mason Rudolph and Jacob Courtney Rudolph, Sr. and an outstanding athlete as a young man at Clarksville High School where he also served as student body president; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous golfer at an early age who attended Memphis State University on a golf scholarship, young Mason Rudolph won the Clarksville Country Club Championship at the age of thirteen and, at the age of sixteen years and six days, became the youngest player ever to qualify to play in the U.S. Open, held at Merion Golf Club in 1950; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rudolph won the United States Golf Association Junior Championship in 1950, the Tennessee State Amateur and State Open in 1956, and claimed five additional State Open titles in 1959, 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1972; and

WHEREAS, a member of the 1957 Walker Cup team, Mason Rudolph won the Western Amateur in 1956 and the All Armed Forces Service Championship in 1958 before joining the PGA tour in 1959; and

WHEREAS, named Rookie of the Year in 1960 on the PGA Tour, Mr. Rudolph enjoyed a highly successful professional golfing career as he claimed five PGA Tour titles, won the 1968 Tennessee PGA Section Championship, and placed 3rd in the 1973 PGA Championship, 4th in the 1965 Masters, and 8th in the 1966 U.S. Open; and

WHEREAS, a member of the 1971 Ryder Cup team, Mason Rudolph played alongside such golf icons as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino, and J.C. Snead as the American team won the competition at Old Warson Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, a formidable competitor, Mason Rudolph's golfing career includes a phenomenal streak of finishing in the money in fifty-two straight events and playing 105 straight tournaments in the 1960's without ever hitting a ball out of bounds; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his professional golfing career as a member of the Senior PGA tour, Mr. Rudolph worked as Director of Instruction at Gaylord Springs Golf Links and later served as Golf Coach for Vanderbilt University where he was instrumental in grooming both the men's and women's golf programs to become contenders in the Southeastern Conference; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rudolph led the Vanderbilt women's golf team to the 2004 SEC Championship, and he played the pivotal role in attracting nationally recognized golf talent to Vanderbilt, including PGA Tour Player and local favorite, Brandt Snedeker. Upon his retirement, Vanderbilt University dedicated its annual collegiate golf tournaments in his honor, naming them the Mason Rudolph Championships; and

WHEREAS, Mason Rudolph was no stranger to awards and accolades, and a nine-hole city golf course in Clarksville bears his name; he was a charter member of the Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame in 1990 and was named as one of the top twenty-five athletes of the century in Tennessee by *Sports Illustrated* magazine; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rudolph was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mason Rudolph enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-two years, Carol Griffin Rudolph, and was the proud father of three devoted sons, Edgar Mason Rudolph, Jr., Griffin Hill Rudolph, and the late Craig Goodman Rudolph; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his six treasured grandchildren, Charles Hunter Rudolph, John Myers Rudolph, Griffin Hill Rudolph, Jr., Mary Rodgers Rudolph, William Mason Rudolph, and James Goodman Rudolph; and

WHEREAS, Mason Rudolph leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional golfer and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mason Rudolph, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mason Rudolph.

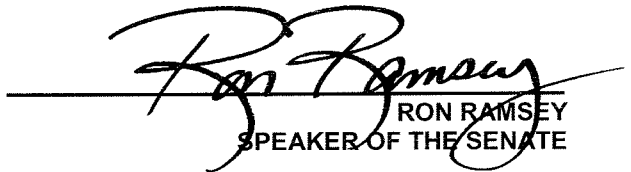
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: MAY 2, 2011



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 13th day of May 2011


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR